

Please amend the claims according to the following listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of making an arc tube chamber intermediate tubular end portions comprising the steps of:
- (a) providing a tube of vitreous material ~~and positioning the tube so that its axis is substantially horizontal;~~
 - (b) heating a portion of the tube sufficiently to soften it in a predetermined area;
 - (c) axially compressing the tube to force the softened material in the heated area radially inward and outward around the circumference of the tube to thereby thicken the tube wall in the heated area;
 - (d) repeating step (b) and step (c) in areas of the tube proximate to the previously thickened tube wall at least one additional time to thereby thicken the wall of the tube over an axial distance approximating the length of the desired chamber;
 - (e) heating the thickened wall area of the tube;
 - (f) positioning a mold having a chamber cavity of a desired shape over the heated thickened wall area, the chamber cavity having a flattened portion at the longitudinal center thereof ~~being asymmetrical in horizontal cross-section;~~
 - (g) internally pressurizing the tube to expand the heated thickened area of the tube against the internal wall of the mold cavity to thereby form a chamber in the tube; and
 - (h) removing the mold from the chamber to thereby provide an arc tube chamber intermediate open tubular end portions.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the ratio of the diameter of the tube to the maximum vertical height of the mold cavity is between about 7/10 and about 7/30 to thereby reduce the amount of heat required doe the pinch seal.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the ratio of the diameter of the tube to the maximum horizontal width of the mold cavity is between about 7/10 and about 7/30 to thereby reduce the amount of heat required for the pinch seal.

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cont. 4. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the ratio of the maximum vertical height of the mold cavity to the maximum horizontal width of mold cavity is approximately one.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the two longitudinal halves of the mold cavity are symmetrical.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the mold cavity is symmetrical in vertical cross-section throughout the length thereof.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the tube is positioned so that its axis is substantially horizontal and the mold cavity is positioned with a the flattened portion side up in step (f).

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the mold cavity is horizontally split for positioning in step (f).

10. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 9 wherein the mold cavity is positioned with a the flattened portion side up in step (f).

11. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the flattened portion bottom of the mold cavity is flattened in an area between about 20 and about 80 percent of the maximum width of the mold cavity.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the flattened portion bottom of the mold cavity is flattened in an area between 20 and about 80 percent of the maximum length of the mold cavity.

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13. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 12 wherein the flattened portion bottom of the mold cavity in the longitudinal center thereof is flattened over a distance between about 50 and about 60 percent of the mold cavity.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein a portion the top of the mold cavity opposite the flattened portion is arched.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the mold cavity is widest at the longitudinal center of the cavity and progressively more narrow towards the ends of the chamber.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the mold cavity is tallest at the longitudinal center of the cavity and progressively more narrow towards the ends of the chamber.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 1 comprising the further steps of:

- (i) positioning an in-lead connector, foil and electrode assembly within each open tubular ends;
- (j) heating the open tubular ends; and

(k) pinch sealing the open tubular ends over a portion of the assembly to thereby form an arc tube.

18. (Currently Amended) A mold for forming a bulbous arc tube chamber intermediate tubular end portions in a formed body arc tube, said mold defining a cavity having a flattened side at the longitudinal center thereof.

19. (Previously Presented) A method of making an arc tube chamber intermediate tubular end portions comprising the steps of:

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- (a) providing a tube of vitreous material;
 - (b) heating a portion of the tube sufficiently to soften it in a predetermined area;
 - (c) axially compressing the tube to force the softened material in the heated area radially inward and outward around the circumference of the tube to thereby thicken the tube wall in the heated area;
 - (d) repeating step (b) and step (c) in areas of the tube proximate to the previously thickened tube wall at least one additional time to thereby thicken the wall of the tube over an axial distance approximating the length of the desired chamber;
 - (e) heating the thickened wall area of the tube;
 - (f) positioning a mold having an elongated chamber cavity over the heated thickened wall area, the chamber cavity being asymmetrical at the longitudinal center thereof in at least one longitudinal cross-section ;

(g) internally pressurizing the tube to expand the heated thickened area of the tube against the internal wall of the mold cavity to thereby form a chamber in the tube; and

(h) removing the mold from the chamber to thereby provide an arc tube chamber intermediate open tubular end portions.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 19 wherein the chamber cavity is symmetrical in at least one longitudinal cross-section.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20 wherein a symmetrical cross-section is perpendicular to an asymmetrical cross-section.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 19 wherein the mold cavity has a flattened area at the longitudinal center thereof.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 22 wherein the flattened area of said mold cavity is positioned in the uppermost area of said mold cavity.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 22 wherein the flattened area of said mold cavity is positioned in the lowermost area of said mold cavity.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 22 wherein the mold is split in two portions.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 25 wherein only one portion of the mold defines the flattened area of the mold cavity.

27. (Currently Amended) A mold for forming an elongated bulbous chamber intermediate tubular end portions in an arc tube, said mold defining a cavity being asymmetrical at the longitudinal center thereof in at least one longitudinal cross-section.

28. (Previously Presented) The mold of Claim 27 being symmetrical in at least one longitudinal cross-section.

29. (Previously Presented) The mold of Claim 28 wherein a symmetrical longitudinal cross-section is perpendicular to an asymmetrical longitudinal cross-section.

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comel.* 30. (Previously Presented) The mold of Claim 27 defining a cavity having a flattened portion.

31. (Previously Presented) The mold of Claim 27 defining a cavity having a canoe-shaped portion.

32. (New) The method of Claim 1 wherein the flattened portion of the cavity is slightly v-shaped across the width of the cavity.